

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 135358
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY NE/PD:SATAUBENBLATT/THLUSTIG:FT
APPROVED BY NEA:MDRAPER
NEA/ARN:CMONROE (DRAFT)
AA/NE:JCWHEELER (DRAFT)
DAA/NE:ADWHITE (DRAFT)
NE/EI:GLKAMENS (DRAFT)
NE/JLS:BCRICHARDSON (DRAFT)
NEA/JMBRIDE (DRAFT)
S/S-O:SVALERGA

-----001266 270034Z /20

P R 262238Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135358

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JBOR, EAID, JO, US, IS

SUBJECT: WEST BANK WATER RESOURCES STUDY - NEXT STEPS

REFS: A. AMMAN 4602, B. STATE 127774, C.AMMAN 3055,
D. STATE 073574, E. AMMAN 4072, F. AMMAN 8529

1. SUMMARY. WE HAVE REVIEWED GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF
WEST BANK RESOURCES STUDY PROPOSED BY EMBASSY/AMMAN
AND BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE COMPELLING REASONS FOR
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SCOPE OF STUDY TO COVER WATER RESOURCES/REQUIREMENTS
OF WEST BANK AS A WHOLE RATHER THAN BEING LIMITED TO
WEST GHOR AND ZOR. AA/NE DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH
AMBASSADOR PICKERING ON MAY 23 AND AMBASSADOR AGREED
TO REVIEW THIS ASPECT SCOPE OF STUDY UPON HIS RETURN
JUNE 1. NEED FOR STUDY ALSO DISCUSSED WITH DR. HANNA
ODEH, PRESIDENT, NPC, WHO WILL DISCUSS WITH GOJ UPON

HIS RETURN. END SUMMARY.

2. APPRECIATE AMMAN'S RESPONSE PER REF A. WHICH RAISES ISSUE OF GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE WEST BANK WATER RESOURCES STUDY. ALTHOUGH WE ARE COGNIZANT OF EARLIER DISCUSSIONS, RESULTING IN A DRAFT WORKING PAPER, LIMITING SUCH A STUDY TO WEST GHOR AND ZOR, BELIEVE THAT OTHER COMPELLING REASONS (DISCUSSED

BELOW) ARGUE THAT STUDY OF WATER RESOURCES COVER ENTIRE WEST BANK.

(A) IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO INVENTORY KNOWN WATER SOURCES AND ESTIMATE POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL SOURCES, PARTICULARLY GROUNDWATER, SEPARATELY FOR GHOR/ZOR AND REMAINING WEST BANK TERRITORY. WITH RESPECT TO WATER USES, HOWEVER, ENTIRE WEST BANK MUST BE CONSIDERED AS A WHOLE SINCE PRIMARILY AGRICULTURAL USE IN GHOR/ZOR MAY WELL COMPETE WITH BOTH AGRICULTURAL AND MUNICIPAL/INDUSTRIAL (M/I) REQUIREMENTS ELSEWHERE, JUST AS ON EAST BANK REQUIREMENTS FOR IRRIGATION WATER IN THE VALLEY COMPETE WITH THOSE FOR M/I WATER ON PLATEAU. IT WILL, THEREFORE, BE NECESSARY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL WATER RESOURCES, INCLUDING YARMOUK, JORDAN RIVER INCLUDING TAKE TIBERIAS, SIDE WADIS AND

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GROUNDWATER AND RELATE THEM TO TOTAL WATER REQUIREMENTS ON THE ENTIRE WEST BANK.

(B) UNDER JOHNSTON PLAN, 100 MCM OF WATER FROM LAKE TIBERIAS WAS TO BE PROVIDED FOR USES IN JORDANIAN TERRITORY, THEN INCLUDING WEST BANK. IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO RELATE THAT QUANTITY, OR ANY PART OF IT, TO WEST GHOR/ZOR ONLY; IT WOULD BE FAR SIMPLER TO RELATE IT TO ENTIRE WEST BANK. CONSIDERING POSSIBLE TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN YARMOUK AND TIBERIAS WATERS WOULD ALSO BE FACILITATED BY DEALING WITH WEST BANK AS A WHOLE.

(C) WATER CONVEYANCE TO WEST BANK SHOULD ALSO BE ADDRESSED IN BROADER WEST BANK STUDY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SOURCES OF WATER, USES IN DIFFERENT WEST BANK AREAS AND STORAGE.

(D) SEPARATING CONCEPTUALLY GHOR/ZOR FROM REST OF WEST BANK MAY ALSO CREATE POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS IN CONTEXT OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN THAT SUCH SEPARATION MAY BE MISTAKENLY INTERPRETED AS AN INDICATION

OF AN INTENT, OR AT LEAST A DISPOSITION, TO CONSIDER DIFFERENT SOLUTIONS FOR EACH OF THE TWO PARTS OF WEST BANK TERRITORY. SINCE THE WEST BANK PRESENTLY IS BEING TREATED BY THE PARTIES AS A DISCRETE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION, RELATING SCOPE TO OVERALL WEST BANK STUDY WOULD NOT DISTURB THAT RELATIONSHIP.

(E) WATER AVAILABILITY/USES STUDY OF WEST BANK AS A WHOLE COULD ALSO SERVE AS DATA BASE IN DEVELOPING

QUOTE POST-PEACE REGIONAL PROJECTS UNQUOTE AS IS RECOMMENDED IN CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS ON FY 1979 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL.

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3. IN AA/NE MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR PICKERING, ABOVE POINTS DISCUSSED AND AMBASSADOR AGREED TO REVIEW SUBJECT UPON HIS RETURN TO AMMAN. WILL AWAIT AMMAN'S RESPONSE. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE TEL AVIV'S COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF WORK TRANSMITTED REF B., INCLUDING COMMENTS PARA 2 (A) THROUGH (E) ABOVE.

4. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH DR. HANNA ODEH, PRESIDENT, NPC, AA/NE WHEELER AND TAUBENBLATT DISCUSSED IMPORTANCE THAT WEST BANK WATER RESOURCES STUDY PROCEED AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. WE DID NOT DISCUSS DETAILS SCOPE OF STUDY WITH ODEH OTHER THAN MENTIONED TWO-PHASED APPROACH TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY HARZA UNDER CONTRACT WITH A.I.D. WE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH ODEH THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED AT THE TECHNICAL MEETINGS IN AMMAN ON STAGE 2 OF THE JORDAN VALLEY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, I.E., TO CONSTRUCT THE MAQARIN DAM IN ONE STAGE RATHER THAN IN TWO STAGES AS PROPOSED BY HARZA, AND FACT THAT THIS CONCLUSION LEFT CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER DOWNSTREAM STRUCTURES, OR OTHER METHODS TO ACHIEVE COMPLETE CONTROL OF YARMOUK WATERS IN ABEYANCE. WE NOTED THAT THIS CHANGE IN PROJECT DESIGN HAD IMPLICATIONS FOR JORDANIAN POSITION PRESENTED TO U.S. AND CONVEYED TO ISRAELIS THAT CONSIDERATION OF WEST BANK WATER REQUIREMENTS COULD AND SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL CONSTRUCTION OF SO-CALLED STAGE 3 (RAISING MAQARIN DAM AND CONSTRUCTION KHALID DAM DOWNSTREAM). WE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT USG MUST SATISFY ITSELF THAT RIGHTS OF ALL RIPARIANS ARE SATISFACTORILY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. ODEH EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION OF THESE PROBLEMS BUT ALSO HIS STRONG CONCERN THAT LINKING WEST BANK STUDY WITH

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MAQARIN DAM PROJECT WOULD RESULT IN FURTHER DELAYS IN GETTING PROJECT STARTED. WE NOTED THAT MAQARIN DAM WOULD NOT ESTABLISH COMPLETE CONTROL OF YARMOUK AND THAT THERE WOULD, THEREFORE, CONTINUE TO BE UNCONTROLLED FLOWS PAST THE EAST GHOR CANAL INTAKE, WHICH ARE POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE FOR WEST BANK. ODEH AGREED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT IN AMMAN UPON HIS RETURN. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT ODEH PERSONALLY SEES TWO DANGERS IN PROCEEDING WITH WEST BANK STUDY NOW: (A) THAT IT WOULD FURTHER DELAY CONSTRUCTION OF MAQARIN DAM AND THUS CAUSE ADDITIONAL COST

INCREASES AND FINANCING PROBLEMS; AND (B) THAT IT MAY BE USED TO RAISE QUESTION OF ALLOCATION OF YARMOUK WATER TO WEST BANK IN CONTEXT OF MAQARIN DAM STAGE 2 PROJECT.

5. ODEH SUGGESTED THAT S.A. TAUBENBLATT, DIRECTOR, NE/PD, IN A.I.D., COME TO AMMAN IN NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS WEST BANK STUDY AND RELATED QUESTIONS WITH OMAR ABDULLAH, PRESIDENT, JVA, AND HIMSELF. IN THIS REGARD, SUGGEST TAUBENBLATT VISIT AMMAN AND TEL AVIV DURING LATTER PART OF JUNE TO DISCUSS SCOPE OF WEST BANK STUDY WITH GOJ AND GOI OFFICIALS. HE WOULD FIRST VISIT AMMAN AS PROPOSED BY ODEH; THEREAFTER WOULD VISIT ISRAEL FOR DISCUSSION WITH APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS. TAUBENBLATT WOULD ALSO BRIEF GOI ON STATUS OF MAQARIN DAM PROJECT, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS DURING DONORS TECHNICAL MEETINGS IN AMMAN IN APRIL, E.G., DECISION TO PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION OF DAM IN ONE, RATHER THAN TWO, STAGES. SUCH A MEETING MAY ALSO PROVIDE BASIS FOR ASSESSING GOI POSITION ON MAQARIN DAM AND CHANGES, IF ANY, IN CONTEXT RECENT MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS. AS PREVIOUSLY, DESIRABLE THAT EMBASSY/TEL AVIV AND EMBASSY/USAID AMMAN PARTICIPATE

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IN GOI MEETING. WOULD APPRECIATE AMMAN AND TEL AVIV'S COMMENTS.

6. WITH RESPECT POINTS MADE PARA 6, REF A., AID/W WILL INCORPORATE THESE SUGGESTIONS IN NEXT DRAFT OF WEST BANK WATER RESOURCES STUDY. WE WILL ALSO CONSIDER IN NEXT DRAFT AMBASSADOR PICKERING'S

SUGGESTION THAT THE WEST BANK STUDY BE PHASED
GEOGRAPHICALLY, PERHAPS BY DEALING FIRST WITH
GHOR/ZOR AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH OTHER PARTS OF WEST
BANK. NOTE, HOWEVER, THE LIMITATIONS WE SEE IN
ADOPTING THIS CONCEPT, EXPRESSED IN PARAGRAPH (2)
(A), ABOVE.

7. ADVISE. VANCE

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